

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-14 DPW-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01

/159 W

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R 221013Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0380

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CONFIDENTIAL BUDAPEST 3517

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, HU, VS

SUBJECT: MARJAI VISIT TO VIETNAM

REFS: 1) SAIGON 18168; 2) STATE 205686; 3) STATE 204919

1. REFTEL (1) CONCLUDES WITH CLARITY FOR WHICH WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE HERE THAT PURPOSE OF MARJAI VISIT TO SAIGON WOULD HAVE BEEN TO CAUSE HARMFUL PUBLICITY FOR GVN AND TO FURTHER HUNGARIAN AIMS OF USING ICCS AS FORUM FOR INTENSIVE POLITICAL PROPAGANDA SUPPORTING PRG AND DEROGATING GVN. RATHER OFFENSIVE GOH POSITION TOWARD SVN IN UN AND ITS GENERAL POLICY ON VIETNAM DOES NOT ANSWER QUESTION OF PURPOSE OF HIS PROPOSED VISIT.

2. WE DO NOT KNOW MOTIVES FOR MARJAI VISIT. IT CONCEIVABLY COULD HAVE BEEN FOR PURPOSES SAIGON CONCLUDED. IT ALSO, HOWEVER, COULD HAVE BEEN FOR MORE USEFUL PURPOSE. IN OUR VIEW IT WAS WORTH TAKING THIS OPPORTUNITY AND SEEKING TO MAKE THE MOST OF IT.

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3. IN SEPTEMBER FONMIN PETER CONFERRED WITH POLISH FONMIN IN WARSAW, AND ONE OF SUBJECTS DISCUSSED WAS COORDINATION OF POLICIES ON VIETNAM. POLES HAVE SINCE SENT NEW REPRESENTATIVE AND NOW HUNGARIANS WERE SENDING HIGHEST RANKING OFFICIAL IN FONMIN DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR VIETNAM MATTERS. SINCE SEPTEMBER, AMBASSADOR HAS ALSO REGISTERED AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVT, INCLUDING PRESIDENT AND PM, FACT THAT GOH ATTITUDE IN ICCS WAS AFFECTING ITS RELATIONS WITH USG. MARJAI VISIT COULD HAVE BEEN RELATED TO THESE FACTORS AS WELL AS TO THOSE RAISED BY SAIGON. CERTAINLY IT WAS DECISIONTAKEN AT HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOVT. WE UNFORTUNATELY WILL NOW NOT KNOW WHAT THE BASIC INTENT WAS.

4. THE UNDERLYING REALITY OF HUNGARIAN POLICY TOWARD ICCS IS INDEED EXACTLY SAME AS SOVIET AND POLISH POLICY AS AMEMBASSY SAIGON SAYS. WHILE WE SHOULD AND ARE WORKING HERE AT TRYING TO MODIFY IT, WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT IT IS MOSCOW'S WISHES THAT ARE DECISIVE. THERE IS, HOWEVER, ELEMENT IN HUNGARIAN POLICY THAT WE DO EXPECT TO HAVE A DIRECT IMPACT UPON. THAT IS THE FACT THAT THE HUNGARIANS HAVE BEEN AND ARE MORE ACTIVE THAN THE POLES IN ICCS, UN AND ELSEWHERE IN THEIR PURSUIT OF THIS POLICY. GVN DECISION WILL CLEARLY MAKE OUR EFFORTS TO ALTER THIS MORE DIFFICULT.

5. WE AGREE WITH DEPT'S ASSESSMENT THAT GVN REFUSAL PROVIDES HUNGARIANS WITH EXCUSE TO MAINTAIN PRESENT BIASED POSITION AND REGRET THAT AMEMBASSY SAIGON DID NOT INTERVENE ON BEHALF OF MARJAI. WE DO NOT SHARE ASSESSMENT THAT APPROACH TO GVN WOULD HAVE ENCOURAGED HUNGARIANS IN THEIR CONTEMPTOUS ATTITUDE TOWARD GVN. AN OPPORTUNITY HAS BEEN LOST FOR GVN OFFICIALS IN VIETNAM TO SEEK TO INFLUENCE MARJAI. AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MARJAI TO TALK DIRECTLY WITH PRG, WITH WHOM EVEN HUNGARIANS HAVE PROBLEMS, MIGHT ALSO HAVE PROVED USEFUL.

6. RE PARA 5 SAIGON REFTEL, WE MADE THIS GENERAL POINT TO GOH AS SOON AS WE HEARD OF ISSUE. WE THOUGHT THEY HAD NOT NOTIFIED SVN UNTIL THE 15TH, BUT APPARENTLY THEY HAD DONE SO THROUGH THEIR NORMAL ROUTE IN FOUR/POWER COMMISSION ON CONFIDENTIAL

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THE 13TH. WHETHER GOH WAS DELIBERATELY CUTTING CORNERS ON THIS ISSUE OR SIMPLY MISTAKENLY HANDLING ARRANGEMENTS FOR

MARJAI'S TRAVEL AS THEY WOULD MEMBER OF HUNGDEL ICCS OR COURIER IS ALSO UNCLEAR. IN ANY CASE THEY OBVIOUSLY HANDLED ITS PART BADLY AND WE HAVE TOLD THEM SO. BUT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO INDICATE THAT TRIP WAS FOR REASONS OTHER THAN INSPECTION AND REVIEW OF POLICY.

7. IT MAY BE THAT IF SVN GOVT HAD HAD POSSIBILITY OF
HUNGARIAN REVIEW OF ITS ACTIVITIES IN ICCS EXPLAINED TO
THEM THEY WOULD HAVE MADE DIFFERENT DECISION. WE CAN
FULLY UNDERSTAND SVN REACTION TOWARD GOH, ESPECIALLY AFTER
PETER'S NEW STATEMENT AT UN. BUT THIS DECISION WILL NOW
REINFORCE THAT APPROACH.
PEDERSEN

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